



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

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ISA Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html

NEXT MEETING:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

1-3 pm

Zilker Botanical Garden – Auditorium

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Dues are \$18

Judges Training February 16, 2025 -

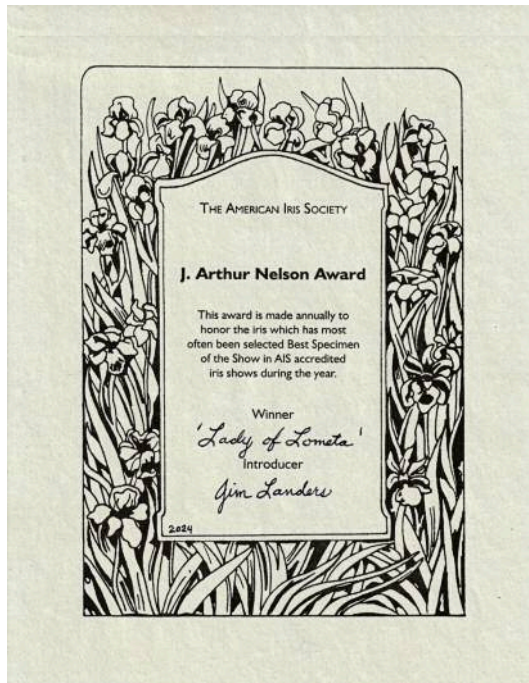
Bonnie Nichols - Novelty and Space Age,

Cost: TBD , Location: ZBG,

Meeting time Sunday Feb 16, 2025

2025 ISA IRIS SHOW — APRIL 5

JIM LANDERS WINS J. ARTHUR NELSON AWARD



2024 ISA Best of Show - Dara Smith

“The J. Arthur Nelson Award is given to an Iris that has won the most Best in Show Placements in a given year. This does not necessarily represent the best garden worthy Iris. But to win, these Irises obviously prove their value as spectacular cut flowers on the day of the show and most likely grow well in more than one area of the country. In case of ties each Iris may win and an Iris may win in several years.

“The Nelson Award was first awarded in 1966. Prior to 1966 it was known as the Queen of Show Award.” (The American Iris Society Iris Encyclopedia)

ISA member Jim Landers has received the 2024 J. Arthur Nelson Award for his hybridized Louisiana iris ‘Lady of Lometa,’ which he introduced in 2013.at the A.I.S. National Convention in Dallas. ‘Lady of Lometa’ won Best of Show for Dan and Peggy Cathey at the 2024 Waco Show and for Dara Smith at the 2024 ISA Show.

Congratulations Dan and Peggy, Dara, and especially to Jim.



Dara Smith - 2024 ISA Best of Show



Jim Landers views his newly introduced 'Lady of Lometa' at the Dallas Arboretum, 2013



Best of Show for Dan and Peggy Cathey at the 2024 Waco Show



SPURIA POPULARITY POLL

Darol Jurn is conducting a Spuria Popularity Poll that has a deadline this January 31. To calculate the results, complete the following: 10 points for the first Spuria listed; 9 points for the second Spuria; 8 points for the 3rd Spuria; until you get to the 10th worth one point.

Please add the location of your garden and e-mail to djurn@prodigy.net or mail to Darol Jurn at 100 Sedona Vista Drive, Sedona AZ 86338-6017 by the end of January 2025.

FEBRUARY IS THE TIME TO FERTILIZE IRISES!

For bearded irises feed with bone meal, super phosphate, or new soil. Water your choice and check the rhizomes to see that they are holding soil and growing well. Sometimes little critters are helping to uproot rhizomes and bulbs. They are creating their own garden by leaving only a few bulbs in the ground. Spurias are needing rose food if they are emerging after cooler rain finally came bringing them life in this area.



GROOMING IRISES

Grooming of irises begins in the garden when weeds begin to emerge after a rain. Remove grass and weeds, and any dead foliage around the plants that you have fed with bone meal, super phosphate or new soil to cover any rhizomes that are uncovered. Water the garden to allow the fertilizer to become part of the soil around the rhizome.

When show time comes in April, select all of the blossoms and bring them inside your working space. Gently remove any insects and dirt with a Q-tip. Check the leaves and snip off any dead tips on the foliage. Trim using scissors to cut the damaged leaf to make it look exactly as the plant grows outdoors when it is a good specimen. There should be no fingerprints on the stem or foliage. Use a soft rag to clean the areas or use a dusting of powder to cover the areas where the sheen on the leaf is missing. Examine the show iris a second time to make sure it has 3 petals reaching toward heaven and 3 petals that form the falls. Never use any devices to fool the judges. Label the iris correctly with its name or it will not be judged. Those judges know their irises, their proper colors, how they grow here in the United States, and how weather affects the outcome of the show stalk.

Did you look at the vase that holds your iris? Is it clean — no spider in the bottom and no spider coming down from the ceiling to meet the newcomer.

Enjoy this beautiful show and get excited about returning for the next one!

Remember that not too far back we encouraged members and friends to enter their blossoms. We needed blooms so that the show could go on!

LOUISIANA IRISES

Louisiana Irises need water, acid soil, and a half day of sun exposure. Natural fertilizers such as manure and compost are preferred, but acidity and moisture are important.

Blooming begins in mid to late March. The soil pH should be at least 6.5. Soil sulfur or aluminum sulfate are acidifying components. These irises are heavy feeders and peat moss, rotted manure and composted leaves are very effective in improving fertility and acidity. Most growers also add commercial fertilizers 8-8-8 or 12-12-12 when preparing beds.

Dividing and replanting is done in late summer,

late August thru September. Dig a hole deep enough for the roots and then cover the rhizome with an inch of soil. Plant firmly and water. Never allow the newly planted iris to dry out. Mark with a permanent label and make a plot plan. At 24 inches apart there is enough space for 3-4 years between replanting.

Old rhizomes that have been blooming need to be discarded. Some varieties tend to give reduced bloom or no bloom the season following replanting. Know this and only plant a part of such varieties in a single season. Even though compost and manure have been applied to the soil, use acidic commercial fertilizers in October, December and February. Formation of large rhizomes requires plant food. A dressing of complete acid fertilizer or superphosphate should be given 6 to 8 weeks before bloom. While you can over fertilize and damage Louisianas, you cannot overwater them during the growing season and after they bloom. Mulch with 2 or 3 inches of pine straw, dried grass clippings or hay that can be left throughout the year and tilled into the soil.

Leaf miners can be controlled with "Cygon" spray.

If Louisianas are grown in pots, remember that they can freeze in Arctic temperatures; therefore, turn them over and cover them or plant the pots in soil.

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING - NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Welcome and introduce any new members. 10 members in attendance. Welcome back to snowbird David Kramer. Welcome to our guest Roger Abel.

Are there any members we need to be thinking of or caring for? Carolyn Wylie is planning to downsize her irises. Please contact her for information for digging plants.

Were the minutes from the October 2024 meeting printed in the newsletter? No

Minutes for October and November 2024 meetings will be submitted in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's report.

Vote to accept - Motion accepted and passed
Balance end of October 2024: \$13,797.71
Report Approved.

AAGC Report - quarterly meeting, held today Nov 12, 2024

Officers WANTED for AAGC!!

Total volunteer hours. ISA was in the top 5 of all

of all clubs.

Dues vote was for \$15.

Jaime and Tracey are contacts for special circumstances.

Meeting schedule updated for 2025. In-person and ZOOM. Discuss schedule for ZOOM availability, access and email of meeting link to members. Tracey sent info in an email with zoom scheduling details. We will need someone to have a computer to connect in the room when we start the meetings.

Show is Saturday April 5, 2025 / Setup Friday April 4th, 2025 We will need access to the storage unit to retrieve vases and supplies. Sale for 2025 has been booked at ZBG. Saturday September 6, 2025

Membership for 2025 is due. Dues are \$18 indiv / \$24 dual

Discussion for storage as continued and updated from Spring 2024 meetings. Violet Crown has rented a storage unit at Stor Self Storage, 2201 Kinney Rd, off of S. Lamar south of Oltorf. In South Austin with the intention of sharing the space with us and the Daylily society. According to Violet Crown's president, our cost to share the unit would be \$55 monthly. Keys(2) are available. We will coordinate through Tracey for access and drop off / pick up of supplies.

Tracey made a motion that we agree to use the storage unit rented by Violet Crown for \$55 / month.
Motion Passed.

Judges Training February 16, 2025 - Guest: Bonnie Nichols - Novelty and Space Age, Cost: TBD or none? , Location: ZBG, Time: Meeting time Sunday Feb 16, 2025

We are waiting on approval from Dell.

Any new business? Please update your calendars with the new meeting times for the rest of our meetings in 2025. There was a mix-up in calendar reservations and our expectations to have a secured commitment for Sunday afternoon meetings. Because of that we have had to change some months meetings back to our original Tuesday evening times on different calendar days.

Next Meeting Sunday January 19, 2025 @ 1pm

Program - 2024 AIS / JIS Convention in Portland, OR Part 2:

Millers' Manor Gardens (Lynda & Roger Miller)
Misty River Iris (Susan Schouten)

lunch @ Bauman's Farm

Mid-America Garden (Thomas Johnson) &

Sebright Gardens (Hostas by Kirk Hansen)

Awards Banquet, slideshow and centerpieces

Meeting was adjourned

Minutes Submitted for Approval at January 19, 2025 meeting as printed in the January 2025 Newsletter.

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING - OCTOBER 20, 2024

Welcome and introduce any new members. No new members today. 8 in attendance.

Minutes from the September 2024 meeting were printed in the October 2024 newsletter. Minutes were approved and accepted.

Treasurer's report.

Vote to accept - Motion accepted and passed

Beg Balance 9/1 12,395.61

Balance end of September: \$13,771.71

AAGC Report - quarterly meeting, no meeting this month

ZBG Iris Workday, Oct 16. Thanks to all who helped.

Ellen, Tracey and Audrey planted the remaining iris for the new bed

There is a designated workday that we can show up and volunteer to help in the garden.

Report from Region 17 Meeting Oct 4-5

Tracey, Donna, Jim, and Ellen attended.

Need a 2025 host.

2026 will be in Cleburne.

2027 South Plains will be host.

The North Texas Daylily Society is merging with the Ft. Worth Iris Society.

A new chapter Feb 2025 in Abilene: The Big Country Iris Society.

Debbie Strauss or Bill Pittman will be our contact

for checking on website status (ie. ownership)

Other clubs sell iris for \$10.00 and no half-price. Pots 10-12 at Ft Worth. Dallas will sell raffle tickets for leftover pots.

Membership dues are lower than AIS.

Speaker was good and Judges training, Silent Auction had many items. And fabrics from Barbara and Al's collection were sold. Books contributed from Jim Landers.

Live auction had a large variety of iris.

Kevin Vaughn was Speaker at the Dallas 70th anniv and Bonnie was recognized as the next President of American Iris Society.

Nominating committee is accepting nominations for Region 17 Board Members.

Further discussion of ideas for making sale more profitable? Last time we mentioned online sales with designated pick-up?

Locations: Public Library, Church, remain central location, (Less than \$500). Looking for an indoor vendor.

On-line only sale? Getting info from Historic Iris club about their sale.

Tracey is in communication with Zilker as the changes in use we would now only have to share the 15% of our sales. And, not pay to rent the room.

Nomination for VP of Programs is Donna Little. Vote passed.

Program ideas: November 2024 Portland part 2 photos, January 2025 Nominating committee, Feb 2025 Judge's Training, March 2025 show prep, Apr 20 after show follow up, May 2025 Installation of Officers

Dates are confirmed but are not on the Official Zilker Calendar. Zilker Conservancy does that and needs to have the calendar updated.

Help Tracey man the table on Friday for the Zilker 60th Anniversary.

Contact info for AAGC and Zilker Conservancy.

Next Meeting Sunday Nov 17, 1pm

Program - The Harris and Aikens gardens at the 2024 AIS / JIS Convention in Portland, OR

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